

The proceedings of your Committee will contribute to create this influence.

I have the honour to be, dear sir,

Your faithful servant,

W. FARR.

Arthur Ransome, Esq., M.D., 1, St. Peter's Square,
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Correspondence.

REDUCTION OF DISLOCATIONS OF THE JOINTS BY MANIPULATION.

LETTER FROM JOHN BIRKETT, Esq.

SIR,—I send you a very brief report, with the dates, of the cases of dislocations of the hip-joint reduced by myself, and which have been under my care in Guy's Hospital.

I will not needlessly occupy space in your columns by comments, as the cases speak for themselves; except to add that all recent cases of dislocation have been so reduced for many years at Guy's.

1. 1848, February. Dislocation into foramen ovale; a female, aged 22.
2. 1849, December. Dislocation on to dorsum ilii; a female, aged 45 to 50—the twenty-second reduction.
3. 1850, February. Dislocation on to dorsum ilii; a female, aged 29.
4. 1850, February. Dislocation into ischiatic notch; a muscular male, aged 56.
5. 1851, April. Dislocation into foramen ovale; a very muscular male, aged 30.
6. 1854, January. Dislocation on to foramen ovale; a very muscular male, aged 28.
7. 1854, March. Dislocation on to foramen ovale; a male, aged 13.
8. 1855, April. Dislocation into ischiatic notch; a female, aged 36.
9. 1855, September. Dislocation into ischiatic notch; a female, aged 9 to 10.
10. 1858, August. Dislocation on to dorsum ilii; a male, aged 53.
11. 1859, April. Dislocation into ischiatic notch; a male, aged 26.
12. 1860, March. Dislocation on to ramus of the pubis, with simple fracture of the same femur at its upper and middle third; a male, aged 12. The value of this method was most strikingly exemplified in this case; for we literally replaced the head of the femur in the acetabulum with the hands.
13. 1861, October. Dislocation on to dorsum ilii; a female, aged 31.
14. 1863, March. Dislocation on to dorsum ilii; a male, aged 47.
15. 1864, March. Dislocation on to dorsum ilii; a male, aged 66, knocked down in the streets, and complicated with simple fracture of the left clavicle and several of the ribs on the left side. The patient, however, completely recovered.
16. 1864, September. Dislocation into ischiatic notch; a very muscular man, aged 52.

All these patients were under the influence of chloroform at the time of the reduction of the dislocation.

Thus, six dislocations of the femur on the dorsum ilii; five into the ischiatic notch; four into the foramen ovale; and one on the ramus of the pubes; were reduced by manipulation without the aid of pulleys during the last eighteen years.

I am, etc.,
JOHN BIRKETT.

59, Green Street, Grosvenor Square, Oct. 27th, 1866.

INJECTION OF ACETIC ACID IN CANCER.

LETTER FROM JOHN BARCLAY, M.D.

SIR,—In the report given by the *Medical Times and Gazette* for October 20th of the late meeting of the Pathological Society, I notice a discussion on the "Treatment of Cancer by the Injection of Acetic Acid". Mr. Moore takes to himself the credit, and I believe most deservedly, of first treating cancerous tumours by injection, having "for a year and a half treated cancerous tumours by the injection of different fluids." But it is what follows in his remarks that I take the liberty of trying to correct; namely, this: "But it had been," he said, "reserved for Dr. Broadbent to suggest the material which seemed likely to be most useful." Now, a reference to dates will, I think, make the matter sufficiently clear as to who was the first to suggest the use of acetic acid. By referring to the number of the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* for April 21st, 1866, it will be found that I began to employ citric acid in the treatment of cancer in the beginning of September 1865, though this was by no means the first time that citric acid had been so used; that a few weeks afterwards, "remembering the solvent power of acetic acid over cancer cell-walls," it occurred to me to try the effect of this substance; and lastly, that on December 28th, 1865, the use of carbolic acid was first begun (proposed by Dr. Manson of this place). The details of treatment by all these acids are given in said paper. By turning now to Dr. Broadbent's pamphlet, I find that this gentleman did not begin the acetic acid treatment till the 18th of May, 1866, nearly four weeks after the appearance of my communication in this *JOURNAL*; and that he did not employ carbolic acid until the 14th of July, about two months later. So that, as far as I can discover, the facts of the case, as regards priority of suggestion, are as follows. Mr. Moore was the first to suggest the treatment of cancer by injection, "a year and a half" ago; I first suggested the treatment of cancer by acetic acid on April 21st, 1866; and Dr. Broadbent made a combination of the above suggestions, and brought them to a more practical result on May 18th, 1866. I do not deny, however, that Dr. Broadbent deserves more credit for what he has done than either Mr. Moore or myself; and I hope that the first named gentleman will soon be able to give us a further list of cases as satisfactory as those he has published in his admirable pamphlet. I am, etc.,

JOHN BARCLAY.

Banff, October 25th, 1866.

LADY NURSES IN HOSPITALS.

SIR,—In the *JOURNAL* of October 20th, you take notice of a report from the *Times* of the introduction of lady nurses at the Woolwich Hospital, which you conceive to be an invention of the "enemy", because it is stated that our *braves* object to the attendance of female nurses. I do not perceive the slightest occasion for alleging that such complaints from our sick soldiers need be an "invention".

There is no medical man who is not ready to acknowledge, because he has too frequently to lament, the want of good nursing to his patients; but I think it will be admitted that properly trained male nurses are in most cases superior to nurses of the other sex; and I can readily enter into the feelings of the soldiers who have expressed themselves dissatisfied with the change.

The movement for establishing hospital sisterhoods, lady nurses, etc., has for a length of time been fashionable; but I think, from a feeling of de-